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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY AT GREAT HALL
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1984

I reminded the American people shortly before our departure from the United States that the development of the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the United States was one of the principal events in post-war diplomacy. While state visits by leaders of both nations and the formal opening of diplomatic relations have provided the high points in this new relationship, our nations have also taken other important steps. Steps that, although they have received little public notice, have marked a broadening and deepening of ties between the United States and China. I speak here of the economic, cultural, and trade accords arrived at by our two governments.

At this ceremony today we are signing additional accords that will facilitate trade and investment, enhance the exchange of people and ideas between our countries, and bring our peoples closer together.

First, we are signing a tax treaty which will make it easier for Chinese and American firms to work together on economic projects. Just as foreign capital and exports have been indispensable to the economic development of the United States, I believe that private investors and professional exchanges can play a dramatic and crucial role in Chinese development -- and one that will benefit both our nations. This agreement will make it easier for Chinese and Americans to work together in trade and joint ventures.

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In addition, through close cooperation between the U.S. Trade and Development Program and China's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, we are also signing an agreement to fund feasibility studies for several high-priority Chinese projects in the field of electronics, telecommunications, petroleum, and metallurgy.

Let me also add that I am pleased to announce we will be working with the Chinese government to expand the highly successful programs in the field of management at the new institute at Dalian.

In addition to these treaties, we are also signing the implementing accord for the Cultural Agreement between the United States and China. I speak for all in our party when I say our own stay here has reinforced our appreciation not only for Chinese hospitality, but for China's ancient and honorable culture. Americans have always held in awe the accomplishments of Chinese civilization. That is why I am delighted that this agreement will permit millions of other Americans to see for themselves the artistic and cultural achievements of the Chinese people.

I am also proud to note that this accord will open my own country's rich heritage to the Chinese people. Indeed, under the terms of the agreement an exhibit from the Brooklyn Museum of Art is just now opening here in Beijing. I hope my Chinese hosts will forgive me for saying so, but I can't think of a more auspicious or more uniquely American way to open a cultural exchange than with an art exhibit from Brooklyn.

Brooklyn is legendary in America for its dialect, its baseball, its bridge, and its colorful and wonderful residents. And now Brooklyn is carrying its well-deserved international reputation for its art exhibits to China, too. In any case, this cultural accord opens the way for many Chinese to see this exhibit and other exhibits of American art and culture. We fervently hope a great many Chinese will find the time to visit our exhibits; we believe they show a great deal about our people and can only bring our nations closer together.

Now I would like to note that, in addition to these agreements, we have made progress in recent months on another series of agreements in nuclear and other areas. This is very pleasing news, and I want to thank the Chinese government for the generous and open manner in which these negotiations have been conducted. We look forward to further negotiations in the year ahead.

The Chinese people are known to the American people as people of admirable patience and endless courtesy. Throughout our stay here, but particularly during these extended negotiations, we have seen both these virtues. We are grateful for this, and I think we have learned much from the experience. Let us hope that, as contacts grow between the Chinese and American people, each of us will continue to learn about the other and this important new friendship of ours will mature and prosper.